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George Bush, former CIA chief and ambassador to the United Nations, makes a point Tuesday while speaking at a Republican fundraising dinner in the Cherry Hills Country Club.

NEWS PHOTO BY MEL SCHIELTZ

Carter will sink in rhetoric, former envoy Bush predicts

By GARY GERHARDT

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President Carter presents a popular image, but, in the end he'll trap himself in his own rhetoric, George Bush, former CIA chief and ambassador to the United Nations, said Tuesday night.

Addressing about 150 persons attending a fundraising dinner of the Colorado Elephant Club in Cherry Hills Country Club, Bush said Carter is a man who says something, then turns around and takes it back.

He said Carter promised a rebate, then took it back. He promised to cut his White House staff by 30 per cent, but has increased it by 30 per cent, instead.

"This is a president that ran on a 'Messiah' program and wants to be judged on a different standard than other people," Bush said. "But after the love affair is over, he'll find he can't keep both sides of every issue happy."

Bush conceded he didn't want to see any president fail because too much is at stake. But it should also be noted, as Republicans, that an incumbent president is hard to beat and his party is hard to beat in an off-year election.

"We can't sit back and hope he (Carter) stumbles," Bush said. "We have to get out and work for the party, let the people know that we are a party that can offer alternatives."

Switching from party politics to national security, Bush said he is against proposed legislation that would make public the budgets of the CIA and other intelligence-gathering organizations.

"The Soviet threat has never been greater to this country than it is today," he said. "There are more KGB (Soviet secret police) agents working in this country today than ever before."

"We must know what that threat is, what the intentions of the Soviets are, and this can't be done by making the budgets of our intelligence-gathering agencies public."

Bush said too much criticism of the CIA and FBI is based on tactics used by agents of those organizations during the 1960s when such organizations as the Weathermen were bombing facilities in the country.

"The public must be told that the budgets of such intelligence-gathering organizations is closely monitored by two committees in both Houses," Bush said.

"As a party we must say 'enough is enough,'" Bush declared. "We must judge our intelligence community in 1977 by 1977 standards, not trying to get rid of these organizations for the way agents were acting during a time of crisis in the 1960s."

Bush said he briefed Carter five times before the President took office. He said he feels the President is well aware of the need for national security.

Getting back to the problems of the GOP on a national scale, Bush said while he was national GOP chairman during the Watergate scandal, he struggled to separate the "party" from the White House.

He said it should be remembered cynics said the GOP was dead in the 1930s and again in 1964, but each time it came back and it could do so again.